

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 16-19 are pending in this application. Claims 16-19 are amended by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Official Action, Claim 16 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 and Claims 16-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Claims 17-19 were indicated as including allowable subject matter.

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication that Claims 17-19 include allowable subject matter.

With regard to the rejection of Claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. §101, that rejection is respectfully traversed.

Amended Claim 16 recites “An information storage medium embodied as a recordable optical disc for use with an optical disc drive, wherein the recordable optical disc physically comprises a lead-in area located near a center of rotation of the disc, and a data area located outside of the lead-in area, said data area recording information including management information including still picture VOB group information, and still picture information, said recordable optical disc including sectors for storing recorded information.”

In the invention recited in Claim 16, the claimed still picture additional audio file information and the still picture VOB group information is always stored in the second area, which is a physical part of the claimed optical disc. This still picture VOB group information is functional and has the claimed relationship with the hardware claimed as “a recording and/or reproducing apparatus accesses the still picture VOB group information of the second recording area to reproduce the still picture information.”

In this respect, MPEP §2106 discusses statutory subject matter in relation to data structures of a computer readable medium. Particularly, MPEP §2106 provides,

a claimed computer-readable medium encoded with a data structure defines structural and functional interrelationships between the data structure and the computer software and hardware components which permit the data structure's functionality to be realized, and is thus statutory.

Thus, based on the clear language of this section, Claim 16 is statutory as it defines a functionality of which is realized based on the interrelationship of the structure to the medium and recited hardware components.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of Claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. §101 be withdrawn.

With regard to the rejection of Claims 16-19 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, Claims 16-19 are amended to recite “a first recording area recording audio information of an additional audio group and the still picture information” and “a second recording area recording still picture additional audio file information and still picture VOB group information.” Claim 17 is amended to recite “generating the still picture information” and “generating the still picture VOB group information.” Accordingly, Claims 16-19 are in compliance with all requirements under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

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Reply to Office Action of December 18, 2006

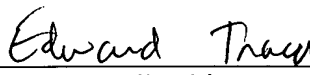
Accordingly, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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